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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/744,362	04/16/2001	Makoto Sato	450104-02511	4455

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EXAMINER	
SHANG, ANNAN Q	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2617	

DATE MAILED: 11/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/744,362	SATO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Annan Q. Shang	2617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *15 September 2005*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-68* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-68* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Iwamura (5,883,621)**

As to claim 1, note the **Iwamura** reference figures 1 and 5, disclose device control with topology map in a digital network and further discloses a transmission method, for transmitting data related to a device (DVD, DVCR1, DVCR2, MD, etc.,) connected to a network through a connection (IEEE 1394) comprising:

Storing connection information (see figs. 1, 5, DSS IRD 100, and col. 3, lines 20-45) in a predetermined table in a RAM "storage means" of IRD 100 (fig. 5, col. 3, lines 20-34 and col. 5, lines 33-55);

Transmitting the stored connection information to another device (DVD 900, MD, DVCR1-903, etc., 'Device') as a command data having a predetermined format via the connection (IEEE 1394, figs. 11-13, col. 7, line 66-col. 9, line 12), note that during initialization of the network a table representing connection information is created and held within the RAM of all the Devices (figs.5 and 9); the DSS IRD 100 performs the functions as a master device and the other Devices as slaves, and in response to a user

command, such as drag and drop, which transmits commands to control the various functions of any Device connected to the IEEE 1394, where CPU 312 "a transmission means" of DSS IRD 100 constructs a hierarchical connection map or topology map and transmits commands to controls the Devices accordingly; note also that the CPU of each Device on the 1394 network determines the output state on the basis of data transmitted from the IRD 100;

data related to the status of connection between the Devices of the corresponding input Device, output Devices and the internal function processing device of the one Device is transmitted to the other Device (col. 4, line 55-col. 5, line 15, lines 33-50), note that each node or Device identifies itself and indicates input and output port status information (see input and output status of Devices as indicated in table 500 fig. 5) and where the stored connection information has a hierarchical structure (figs.5-7), furthermore audio/video is transferred between IRD 100 and the Devices connected to the IEEE 1394 (col. 4, lines 49-54);

where the stored connection information contains a unit identifier descriptor representing all data (col.8, lines 25-33), a source descriptor representing a list of transmission sources, a destination descriptor representing a list of receivers (col.3, lines 37-58, col.4, line 63-col.5, line 45 and line 46-col.6, line 5); a transformation descriptor representing a list of signal conversions (is inherent to the IEEE 1394 network system of fig.1, which includes different device types or receivers with various reception devices for receiving the video data transmitted, where the reception devices reads the content and distinguishes the processing method (format) of the received data

(i.e., MPEG, DV, NTSC, PAL, etc., col.4, line 63-col.5, line 45) and processes accordingly base on the device type.

As to claims 2-4, Iwamura further discloses where the pieces information held in table 500 and table 800 (figs. 5 and 9) includes information related to a connection between and an input Device and an output Device and internal function processing unit held by the Device and information related to a format and input or output by the Device which are held on a RAM if each Device and output at once in response to a command via the user interface to enable the Device to determine the pieces of information (col. 5, lines 6-43, col. 6, lines 19-33 and col. 7, lines 41-65), note that each Device uses a self identification format (fig. 4, col. 5, lines 16-24) to identify its input and output format.

As to claim 5-7, Iwamura further discloses where the input unit and output unit indicated by the information held in the table includes units except for an input unit or an output unit connected to the Bus line, where the information to a present connection state in the device is transmitted to another device by transmission of the command of a predetermined format and when a present connection state is changed, if another connection is influenced, information related to the change in the present connection state is further transmitted (col. 4, line 55-col. 5, line 44 and line 66-col. 6, line 5)

As to claims 8-9, the claimed "data transmission method for transmitting data..." contains the same structural elements as rejected claim 1.

As to claim 10, the claimed "data transmission method for transmitting data..." contains the same structural elements as rejected claim 1.

As to claims 11-12, Iwamura further discloses where when a plurality of signal sources exist, such as IRD, DVD, VCR(s), data related to the plurality of signal sources is transmitted via the 1394 bus (col. 8, lines 18-51).

As to claim 13, Iwamura further discloses where data designating the input unit or the output unit and the function processing unit has a data structure equal to that of data used when a setting related to a connection between the input unit or the output unit and the function processing unit is performed (col. 5, lines 6-50 and col. 8, lines 18-51).

As to claim 14, the claimed "a device data transmission method for transmitting data..." contains the same structural elements as rejected claim 1.

As to claims 15-18, Iwamura further discloses where data related to the output state of the video image, a flag representing that a specific video image is superposed on the video image is added, the specific video image represented by the flag is a video image of an on-screen display, where a processing state of the video image is represented by the specific field of data related to an output state of the video image and the processing state of the video image is represented by using a flag (figs 11-13 and col. 8, line 43-col. 9, line 12), furthermore the CPU in the other Devices determines the basis of the flag that the specific video data is superposed on the video data.

As to claim 19, Iwamura further discloses where the processing state represented by data in specific field is data representing a stat that predetermined data is extracted from multiplexed video data (col. 7, line 66-col. 8, line 10).

As to claims 20-24, Iwamura further discloses where a processing state represented by data in the specific field is data representing a state of an on-screen display for displaying data on which a video image is superposed, is data representing a state that a signal format of video, is data representing a state that a special process is performed to a video image, is a state that video images mixed and is data representing a state that the same video image as that of a signal source is set (figs 11-13 and col. 7, line 66-col. 9, line 12).

As to claim 25, the claimed "a transmission device for transmitting data..." contains the same structural elements as rejected claim 1.

Claims 26-28 are met as previously discussed with respect to claims 2-4.

Claims 29-31 are met as previously discussed with respect to claims 5-7.

As to claims 32-33, the claimed "a transmission device..." contains the same structural elements as rejected claim 1.

As to claim 34, the claimed "a transmission device..." contains the same structural elements as rejected claim 1.

Claims 35-36 are met as previously discussed with respect to claims 11-12.

As to claim 37, the claimed "a transmission device..." contains the same structural elements as rejected claim 1.

Claims 38-40 are met as previously discussed with respect to claims 15-18.

Claim 41 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 19.

Claims 42-46 are met as previously discussed with respect to claims 20-24.

As to claim 47, the claimed "a transmission system..." contains the same structural elements as rejected claim 1.

Claim 48 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 2.

Claims 49-50 are met as previously discussed with respect to claims 3-4.

Claims 51-53 are met as previously discussed with respect to claims 5-7.

As to claims 54-55, the claimed "a transmission system..." contains the same structural elements as rejected claim 1.

As to claim 56, the claimed "a transmission system..." contains the same structural elements as rejected claim 1.

Claims 57-58 are met as previously discussed with respect to claims 11-12.

As to claim 59, the claimed "a transmission system..." contains the same structural elements as rejected claim 1.

Claims 60-62 are met as previously discussed with respect to claims 15-18.

Claim 63 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 19.

Claims 64-68 are met as previously discussed with respect to claims 20-24.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-68 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The amendment to all the independent claims necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection discussed above. This office action is made final.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Horiguchi et al (5,973,748) disclose receiving device and receiving method.

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Annan Q. Shang** whose telephone number is **571-272-7355**. The examiner can normally be reached on **700am-400pm**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Christopher S. Kelley** can be reached on **571-272-7331**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **571-273-8300.**

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the **Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).**

Annan Q. Shang.

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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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